

**Munich Amerika Haus
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**Remarks by
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On this day we gather to remember, to reflect and, for those who lost loved ones, even to continue to mourn. From our mourning we seek healing. From reflection we seek insight. And from our remembrance we seek the impetus to act to meet the challenges and obligations we must accept.

Five years ago today, after years of foreshadowing and months of preparation and planning, on a beautiful autumn morning, 19 young men boarded four planes to fly them into symbols of American power - financial, military and governmental - murdering all in their path.

These were certainly not the first terrorist strikes. It was not even the first time symbols of American power had been attacked. Yet we all know that the September 11th attacks were a tragic milestone for many reasons. Designed to maximize mass casualties and intended as catastrophic economic and psychological blows to the United States, the strikes hit more than just the United States. People around the world were directly affected. The almost 3,000 people killed included citizens of 90 nations, from all continents.

The enduring stories of September 11th are both the stories of horror, tragedy and loss as well as those of acts of bravery and tremendous sacrifice by ordinary people. Firefighters, police and passersby rushed in to help. Immediately people everywhere around the world responded with an outpouring of goodwill towards the families who had lost loved ones and with widespread solidarity against terrorist tactics. Across Europe there were declarations of "We are all Americans" from government officials and private citizens. For so many of the victims' families who were among the recipients of the gifts of charity, sympathy and time, these actions from strangers as well as neighbors gave not just consolation but hope in the ultimate wholeness of humankind and helped rekindle faith in the inherent goodness of individuals.

Thinking back on those days five years ago, it is clear these actions were more than just kindness. They reflected a need of people everywhere to do something...anything. They wanted to act, and to act now. The victims' families were an obvious and sympathetic group for whom first and immediate actions could be taken. People didn't want to be bystanders to terrorism. They wanted to help those who were hurt. They wanted to protect others from getting hurt. They also wanted to reaffirm their own humanity in the face of such brutality.

Nikki Stern whose husband worked on the 94th floor of 1 World Trade Center, aptly noted that, on September 11th the plane went crashing into her husband's life briefly and into her own permanently.

Those planes went crashing into all of our lives permanently.

Since then, terrorist attacks have continued in London, Madrid, Bali, Amman, Kabul and elsewhere. These attacks are, in part, extremists efforts to dictate how the 9/11 plane crashes

would affect our lives. Terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman has testified before the US Congress that “What Osama bin Laden ... doubtless understands is that in the post-9/11 world, terrorism’s power to coerce, and intimidate; to force changes in our daily lives; and to influence our policies and affect how and on what we spend money, have all increased enormously.”

Five years after September 11, it is past time to turn our attention to taking that power away from terrorism. Extremists continue to take lives, attract new recruits globally, and instill fear daily. It is clear that effective counter-terrorism requires more than military and security measures. For these measures do not diminish extremist’s popular appeal.

Colonel Frank Hoffman who is now a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute has used the analogy of a one armed Cyclops. He says a one armed Cyclops “looks at the world thru a single lens, a military lens, and it has one well developed arm, a military arm. We need our military might, but we need more than just a military lens to anticipate future threats. We need more than military muscle to secure our interests.” Col. Hoffman notes that a one armed Cyclops may win many battles, but never establishes a better peace anywhere.

The United States is not a one armed Cyclops. And we must not limit ourselves to acting like one. We must use all of our arms and our full vision to counteract the continued resonance of extremists’ message and their ability to polarize societies and manipulate popular support.

We must help build a world where the allure of extremists and their terrorist tactics cannot match the appeal of lives lived in dignity and opportunity.

A world where so many people live in poverty and distress is unstable and unjust. Addressing inadequate living standards wherever they exist worldwide is essential to reducing terrorism. I do not hold that terrorists are poor or that poor people are more likely to become terrorists; many terrorists are middle-class and some of their leaders, rich. Nor do I exonerate officials in many poor countries for maintaining corrupt and oppressive governments that add to poverty among their citizens. I do hold that poverty and exclusion create fragile conditions and foster resentment, which extremists then exploit and use to rationalize terrorist tactics.

Robert Pape of the University of Chicago who wrote the book on the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism has observed that “An individual can die; only a community can make a martyr.”

Terrorist tactics lose their ability to coerce if they lose their ability to recruit. The message and tactics of the rich bin Ladens of the world can be powerful only inasmuch as they are heard and followed. Inequality breeds exclusion, isolation and the ability to view others without compassion, which are fertile places to grow communities that support would-be martyrs.

We know from the continued reaction to terrorist attacks that people don’t want to feel like helpless bystanders while terrorists destroy the communities we have built and the lives of innocent people. We want to act to stop the destruction and to counter our own fear. We don’t want to let the terrorists write the script for how our lives will play out.

Alternatives to the extremists’ message of hatred and their violent methods occur when one village meets another in acts of compassion. As families meet families, as human being meets human being, networks of friendship and understanding are formed. Utilizing these lenses we can see paths toward better lives and self dignity that don’t depend on hatred of others. Utilizing

these arms we can offer networks that build instead of destroying. It is not only much harder to de-humanize those who have reached out to you, building schools or clinics and providing opportunities represent an alternative vision of how energy, resources and power can be directed to make change. We know that people around the globe want to make the world a better place.

I want to tell you a bit about a growing number of people who recognize both that the battle against terror is a long one and that we don't have to be bystanders while terrorists use their resources to inflict enormous harm. These are private citizens using their own resources to generate enormous good. We are nothing more and nothing less than families reaching out to families around the world.

Before telling you about these families whose message can be found in their actions, I want to make it clear that we are not so naïve as to believe that such efforts are the single antidote to terrorism. But we do believe that we each have the power to make a difference and together we can make a transformation. As anthropologist Margaret Mead famously has said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Twenty-five year old Peter Alderman went to the World Trade Center buildings on Monday, September 11 to attend a conference. He got there early. Had he been late he might still be alive. His parents, Elizabeth and Steve Alderman were appreciative of the extensive counseling and other resources available to them after Peter's death. They recognized that elsewhere in the world these resources were simply not available to those suffering from terrorism, torture and mass violence. So they established the Peter C. Alderman Foundation to provide indigenous caregivers with the tools to treat post-traumatic depression using a combination of Western medical therapies and local healing traditions. They organize annual Master Classes in Italy to train caregivers from post-conflict countries to teach their colleagues back home how to treat victimized populations. So far, graduates have taken the knowledge they acquired back to Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Indonesia, Iraq, Macedonia, Rwanda and elsewhere. In addition, they have opened the first Peter C. Alderman Clinic in Cambodia with a second Peter C. Alderman Clinic opening in northern Uganda later this year.
- Jeff Gardner was an insurance executive with an office in the twin towers. He was also an avid participant with Habitat for Humanity which builds houses for and with poor communities worldwide. Jeff was often at a Habitat build site in his home state of New Jersey, but he had also gone to Honduras and Brazil to build homes with Habitat's Global Village Program. Asked why he did so, he remarked that he knew his life was privileged and he didn't want to forget that. After his death on September 11th, his family set up a scholarship fund at Habitat for Humanity's Global Village Program to enable college students to continue Jeff's work.
- Daniel Pearl, a gifted writer and a talented musician, traveled the world with a laptop and a fiddle, an open heart, an open mind and perhaps most of all, an open ear. Danny, as everyone knew him, was a journalist in the best tradition of journalism. His aim was to understand the people and the perspectives that he found and communicate them through the pages of the Wall Street Journal. His aim was to encourage dialogue. After he was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi in early 2002, his family and friends formed the

Daniel Pearl Foundation to promote cross-cultural understanding through journalism, music and interfaith dialogue. I could think of no better revenge for Danny's death than to promote the ideals that inspired his life and work – truth, openness, tolerance, music and friendship. These they could not kill. Danny and I were college buddies. I worked closely with the Pearl family to get the Foundation started and served as its first executive director until last year. Every year for six months Danny's former colleagues at the Wall Street Journal have welcomed an Arab or Pakistani journalist into their newsroom as a Daniel Pearl Fellow to work side by side and learn about how each other practices their shared profession. Every year, Danny's friends and thousands who did not know him personally, have marked his October 10th birthday with Harmony for Humanity and Daniel Pearl World Music Days. As Danny's father Judea Pearl has said, "When Danny was killed we were given a tragedy and an opportunity. If we don't take the opportunity, all we are left with is the tragedy."

Let me do more than tell you about these remarkable people. You can hear some of them in their own words

PLAY DVD.

Since this documentary was made last year, the school Sally Goodrich built has opened. Sally has continued her commitment to rural Afghanistan – having made more than four trips there in the past year - and is now working on various projects including solar electricity and small businesses for widows. In the past few weeks she also has welcomed an Afghan student into her home so that he can study at an American high school in Vermont.

Just last week Akbar Ahmed received the inaugural Purpose Prize with Danny Pearl's father Judea Pearl for their ongoing Daniel Pearl Jewish-Muslim dialogue. This new prize is awarded to people age 60 or older who are using their experience and skills to address long-standing social problems. Over the past two years, Dr. Ahmed and Dr. Pearl have appeared before mixed Jewish, Muslim and Christian audiences in the United States and Europe to discuss highly emotional and divisive issues. Their discussion is frank, open and honest. Dr. Pearl has said "We have only two rules; No topic is taboo and we and the audience will behave with civility."

Just yesterday Susan Retik and Patti Quigley completed their third Ground Zero to Boston bike ride, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to help widows in Afghanistan. They visited Kabul earlier this year and met a number of the widows their fundraising has helped.

The Steuerle family, the Stapleton-Manchester family, and the Koch family have been very involved in building up Our Voices Together. These families have realized that, however unwanted, their personal tragedies have given them a distinct voice that can and must be used to convey an alternative message to the hatred emanating from terrorists – a message of shared humanity.

Our Voices Together is a nonprofit, nonpartisan network of individuals and families who are trying to create global good in response to tragedy. We seek to rekindle the generosity of spirit and goodwill that prevailed immediately after September 11, when the whole world asked: What Can I Do? We have a list of concrete, positive actions that can help counter terrorism by making our world more secure and compassionate for all.

What more powerful statement can you make than to reach out personally to provide education or medical care or jobs? Terrorists realize that in our modern world, each one of us has tremendous power to hurt many others; don't downplay your own power to make better the lives of many others.

Our website, OurVoicesTogether.org describes a variety of ways you can act, from individual and family donations, to giving alternative gifts this holiday season, to organizing bike rides, volunteering and studying abroad, or advocating for policies that contribute to shaping the kind of world you envision. Maybe a few people in this room will look at their assets or fund-raising ability and decide that they can even undertake a project like building a school. What a powerful message not just to the terrorists, but as a statement of who you are.

Our Voices Together is a collection of our individual efforts that together create a strong voice of compassion that can drown out the voices of hatred and fear.

In her book, *A Mighty Heart: the Life and Death of My Husband Danny Pearl*, Danny's widow Mariane Pearl notes: "The task of changing a hate-filled world belongs to each one of us." I think she is absolutely right. We are trying to rise to that task and I hope you will join us.

Five years after the planes crashed into our lives we cannot change the past, but together we can shape the future.

Thank you.